



TEACHER'S GUIDE
VOL. 3, NO. 14 THEME
SPRING 2003
EARTH DAY

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TIME
FOR KIDS
THE BIG PICTURE

SAVE THE EARTH! RECYCLE A BOTTLE

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and materials

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BACKGROUND

Celebrate Earth Day on April 22 and remind students to protect nature every day. This issue helps students understand the recycling process, with a focus on how plastic bottles are recycled. Use the story to teach about conserving and reusing resources.

FAST FACTS

Earth Day

- Earth Day was founded by Gaylord Nelson, a U.S. senator from Wisconsin. On April 22, 1970, the first Earth Day, 20 million Americans spoke up about taking care of the environment.
- In 1990, Earth Day became an international event. Organized by Denis Hayes, the coordinator of the first Earth Day, 200 million people in 141 countries participated on the 20th anniversary.
- The focus of Earth Day Network's 2003 campaign is Water for Life. It highlights issues about water access and usage.

Exclusive Access to TFK's Website for KIDS

Good news for TFK fans! Beginning April 29, we're rewarding our TFK magazine readers with exclusive access to TFK's Website for KIDS. Use TFKNEWS as the special code. Please share this code with your students. Our kids site will also be available through AOL Keyword: TFK.

Teachers will still have unrestricted access to TFK's online classroom and student resources. If you have any questions, please contact us at 800-777-8600.

Recycling

- The number of communities that recycle plastic is growing. Now 63% of the country's communities recycle plastic.
- Most plastics stand up well in the recycling process. The grains and fibers don't break down. Recycled plastic stays strong enough to create new products.
- Recycled paper products include cards, bookmarks, egg cartons and napkins. Recycled metal can be made into cans, steel beams and car parts. Jars and bottles can be made from recycled glass.

NONFICTION LITERACY

Preview and Predict

- Create a K-W-L chart on recycling. Have children brainstorm what they know and what they want to know about the recycling process. After reading the issue, return to the chart. Have children share what they learned. Decide how you will find out more if any questions could not be answered with the story.

Draw Conclusions

- Stop after reading the introductory paragraph on the top of page 2. Create a list of the kinds of plastic bottles that exist. Then have children picture a garbage dump. Ask: If everyone threw all their plastic bottles out, what would the garbage dump look like? How would it

look if people recycled all their bottles?

Develop Metacognition

- Analyze how the text is structured. What clues on the page help readers follow the steps of the recycling process? Point out the numbers. Ask children to retell the process using sequencing words such as *first*, *next*, *then* and *last*.

Phonemic Awareness

- Have children practice saying the blend at the start of *plastic*. Ask: What other words begin with the /pl/ sound?

Synthesize

- Ask: Why is it better to recycle plastic bottles than to throw them in the trash? How does recycling affect people, plants, animals and our world?

TIPS FOR TEACHERS: EARTH DAY

Laura O'Laughlin is coordinator of U.S. Programs and Environmental Education at **Earth Day Network**. She works to connect teachers—95,000 in the U.S.—and her environmental organization. The online community is her main avenue for sharing information and lesson ideas on environmental issues. Here are **activities** she has adapted from *Earth Day Network's* site.

- **How much water is available for the world's needs?** Try a hands-on math activity to introduce the idea that we have a limited, shared supply of water in the world. Fill a 2-liter bottle with water. Add a few drops of blue food coloring to represent all the water on Earth. Calculate 2.5% of 2 liters (50 ml) and place this quantity in a clear container. Explain that this represents the amount of freshwater on Earth.
Remove 70% of this amount (35 ml) to show the amount of water that is trapped in glaciers or water that is too deep in the ground to be used. Place this amount in a separate container. Show what is left (15 ml). Explain that this small amount—less than 1% of the Earth's total water supply—is all the water in the world available to meet people's needs, including water needed for drinking, washing and farming.
- **Where does the water go?** Trash dumped into storm drains is a problem in many communities. Help children raise community awareness and prevent pollution. Be-

gin by checking with your local water/sewage/utility authority to see where the water from storm drains is deposited. Take students out to find storm drains in your neighborhood. Explain that when it rains, water goes into the drains. Ask: What if oil were dumped into the drain? Talk about possible consequences: animals may be hurt or drinking water may be affected, depending how the water is circulated.

Have students mark the drains with stencils advertising that all materials dumped into them flow into the local watershed. For example, buy ready-made stencils or create your own that say, "No dumping! This goes to a lake." Post flyers in the stenciled neighborhoods, allowing students to share their findings with the community.

- **Plant a tree.** Gather these materials: tree seedlings, shovel, bucket and mulch. (Small trees can be purchased at—or donated by—a local nursery.) Prepare the planting area by turning up soil in an area three to five times the size of the root ball. Dig a hole in the center of the area so that the tree rests on solid soil. Backfill and use water to settle the soil. Mulch a ring 3 to 6 inches deep around the tree, being careful not to pile mulch near the trunk. Water every week. Watch the tree grow!



EARLY READING

Share this new poem by Marilyn Singer. It is from book of poems about water that will be published this summer. Ask children to close their eyes and picture a pond. Talk about what plants, animals and objects come to mind when they think about a pond scene. Read the poem aloud.

Ask children to sketch one way that the author describes crossing a pond. Have children choose an action word from the poem to add to their pictures. Discuss ways people can appreciate and enjoy ponds and other bodies of water.

HOW TO CROSS A POND

You can swim
or you can float
on a raft
or in a boat.

You can skate
and you can row.
You can get
your dog to tow.

You can fly
if you're a hawk.
And in the winter
you can walk.

—by Marilyn Singer

From *HOW TO CROSS A POND*: Poems about Water ©2003 by Marilyn Singer. Reprinted by arrangement with Random House Children's Books, a division of Random House Inc. New York, New York. All rights reserved.

TFK Words to Know

bin crush flake melt pack shape sort

CHALLENGE WORDS

factories recycle

Comments? E-mail teachersguides@timeforkids.com

BOOKS

RECYCLE!

by Gail Gibbons
(Little Brown, 1996)

Illustrated steps of the recycling process. Makes the case for conservation.

THE WARTVILLE WIZARD

by Don Madden
(Aladdin, 1993)

An old man teaches a town not to litter. Humorous picture book.

WHERE DOES THE GARBAGE GO?

by Paul Showers
(Scott Foresman, 1994)

Follow trash to landfills and recycling centers. Graphs and diagrams.

WEBSITE

earthday.net/howto/teachers-corner.stm

Environmental information, lesson ideas and message boards.

BIG PICTURE

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TIME FOR KIDS THE BIG PICTURE (ISSN 1528-6584) is published 15 times a year bi-weekly from September to May except school holidays for the classroom rate of \$3.75 per student (minimum order: 10 copies) by Time Inc. Principal Office: Time & Life Building, 1271 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020-1393. Ann S. Moore, Chairman, CEO; Richard Atkinson, Treasurer; Robert E. McCarthy, Secretary. Periodical postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices. © 2003 Time Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited. Subscriber: If the postal authorities alert us that your magazine is undeliverable, we have no further obligation unless we receive a corrected address within two years. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to TIME FOR KIDS, P.O. Box 30609, Tampa, FL 33630-0609. Subscription queries: 1-800-777-8600. TIME FOR KIDS is a registered trademark of Time Inc. Mailing list: We make a portion of our mailing list available to reputable firms. If you prefer that we not include your name, please call or write us at P.O. Box 60001, Tampa, FL 33630, or send us an e-mail at privacy@timecustomersvc.com.

Name

MAKE LESS TRASH!

Read the chart. Then fill in the bubbles to answer the questions.



1. What does it mean to reduce?

- ☐ use the same thing over ☐ use less ☐ make something new

2. What is one idea for reusing?

- ☐ share books ☐ make cards ☐ recycle cans

3. When you recycle, what happens?

- ☐ there is more trash ☐ it hurts the Earth ☐ new things are made

4. What step should we try to do first?

- ☐ reduce ☐ reuse ☐ recycle

Name

Dear Family,



Save the planet! TIME FOR KIDS celebrates Earth Day with a story about how plastic bottles are recycled. Help your child understand some simple things we can all do to take care of the Earth.

Talk about ways that your family helps protect the environment. Have your child keep track of Earth-friendly things he or she does for a week, such as not running water while brushing teeth, turning off the lights when you leave a room and recycling. Try the crafts below to reuse a plastic bottle. Make sure that you do all the cutting.

Three Ways to Reuse a 2-Liter Soda Pop Bottle

To begin each project, wash the bottle and take off the labels.

1. Make a flower pot. Remove the thick plastic on the bottom of the bottle. Cut the bottle in half. The bottom half will be the pot. Decorate with paint, markers or stickers. Add soil and seeds, or repot a plant.



2. Make a bird feeder. Use a knife to punch about 15 holes in the bottom half of the bottle. Make two holes on opposite sides of the bottle. Push a small stick (such as a disposable chopstick) through the holes. Birds can sit on it. Use a funnel to fill the bottle with bird seed. Tie a string around the bottleneck. Hang the feeder.



3. Turn it into a gift holder. Cut a slit in the side that is big enough to fit your hand. Decorate the bottle with markers or stickers. Tie a ribbon around the cap. Put in your gift. Then give it away!

